

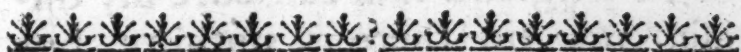
THE
H I S T O R Y
OF
PETER and BETTERIES.
OR,
A little Labour well bestowed, in quelling
the rage and fury of a
CHIDING SCOLD.

PERFORMED BY
PETER PAINTER,
After a Fierce and Dangerous Combat with
BETTERIES BOLDFACE his Wife.



Edinburgh: Printed & sold in Niddry's-wynd.





T H E

Woman's SPLEEN Abated;

O R,

*A little Labour well bestowed in quelling
the Rage and Fury of a Scold.*

*With threats and blows they do begin,
Instead of fairer speeches,
His master she would fain have been,
but he hath won the breeches*

Peter. **S**ICK, sick; sick; O death,
come take my life! never
was a poor man so terrible sick as I.

Jeffery. Why, how now neighbour
Peter, what is the matter, man? Hold
up your head? what are you sick, I
pray thee tell me what disease thou
art troubled with?

Pet. Oh! Neighbour, I am sore
tormented with a disease which is
incurable! for there is never a doc-

tor in England that can cure my disease, no, no there is nothing but death can do me good.

Jeff. No, nothing but death, I paay thee tell me, what disease it is that which no man can cure but death.

Pet. My disease has a name that is called Bang a Lilly, with a very strong spice of the Horn-drill, which is grown so fast up into my head that I can get no rest night nor day.

Jeff. Indeed Peter these diseases be very strange to me, for I never heard a disease called Bang a Lilly before, I pray you tell me how you came by it at first.

Pet. Inded neighbour I must tell the truth and no more; This disease that I call Bang a Lilly, my wife one night brought it home from a place called Hasilton, and so one night she came home as drunk as a beggar, and I did but say to her, Alas wife, where have you been? Come, sit down I see you be weary. How now, you rascal, do you know who you prat

to? With that she took hold of this Hasilton, and did so belabour me back and side, that I have been sore sick of that disease ever since

Jeff. Nay Peter if that be all, I believe I can teach thee a medicine that will cure that.

Pet. Indeed Jeffery, if that you could do that, you would do me the best deed that ever you did in your life; therefore good neighbour let me understand the medicine.

Jeff. Why Peter I tell thee, thou must get a pound of strong hearting, and two pound of manhood, and temper them well together and then you must take a spoonful of the oil of hazle and blend them well together and give her as much of that as she can take in an hour. Or give her that every morning, fasting for one whole week together, and I will warrant thee it will cure thee and her too.

Pet. Indeed neighbour Jeffery, I do intend to take your counsel; and if it be a curable medicine, I shall

give you many thanks for your good counsel, and so take my leave of you for this time. So Peter going home he sits down very silently, and he takes two pounds of strong heartning, and four pound of manhood, and flings it into his buller, and he takes a good handful of Hazel berrie, and sets it behind tn door, intending to give his wife some of that; and so presently comes Betteries, in.

Pet. How now Betteries; Where have you been to day.

Bet. What is that to thee thou bold fac'd cuckold rogue?

Pet. How now Betteries? What is the matter with you, what are you drunk?

Bet. How drunk firrah? Give me such another word and I'll make thy pate ring against the wall, thou brazen fac'd rascal! And as thou likes that flap on the chaps so prat to me the next time.

Pet. How now Betteries? what is the matter with you now, Truly,

Dame I scorn to take it at your hands as I have done. Come take ye that, ye drunken queen.

Bet. Owt thou cowardly rogue, is that the manhood thou saidst thou hadst gotten, for to strike a woman that has nothing in her hand?

Pet. Come, come Betteries, that matter shall be amended, here take thy rock I am sure thou hast not used it this many a day, except it was to the breaking of my head.

Bet. Come, you prating knave are you preaching now give me but hold of the stick and I'll be the clerk to say Amen, to your cuckold's cap, by and by. Take you that sirrah, ay and that too, goodman rascal, for eating of my piece of custard last night I have not forgot it yet I warrant thee

Pet. No thou brazen fac'd slut, nor I have not forgot since you came home drunk, and broke my head with the tongs, for nothing but asking you where you had been. Therefore take you that you drunken whore, ay and that too.

Bet. Owt thou rogue, wilt thou murder me thou bloody minded villain. But take my word I will be even with thee by and by, if thou wilt but let me take my wind a little.

Pet. Nay, you brazen fac'd queen I will keep you warm while you are warm; for you shall not get cold under my hands. No my medicine will not work, if I should let thee get cold.

Bet. Well well Sirrah, I will make you dearly pay for this anon; For I tell the truely, I scorn to be beholden to such a lousy rogue as thou art No Sirrah, if I die in they debt, the devil take my bones. No, no you brazen fac'd rascal I'll pay thee while I have one penny in my purse or one spark of mettle in my limbs, and that thou shalt find before I have done with thee, and so charge me that groat thou rogue. Why, what now? you rascal, hold up your head, what are you got drunk?

Pet. No, you whore I am not drunk, though you have knock'd me down. No I will assure thee I am a-

ble to take the other bout with yet, thou shalt find that Peter has some metal left in him, though you told the Taylor that he was no man, nor had any metal in him, when he was shaking thee at Islington town's end like a whore as you are.

Bt. Owt thou base cowardly rogue thou shewest thy breeding, like a knave as thou art, knowing thy wife to have but one fault, and thou like an impudent rogue to discover it. Have at the once again, for that trick, I think I have met with thee now.

Pet. Met with me now, Betteries, I hope you will find before we part, that you have mete with me and your matchh too. For I well remember, not long since, you came hame drunk with your cloaths a dirt and mire, as if it had been a sow that had been wallowin in the mire in June. and I said but alas wite, have you gotten a fall? and you presently took the laddle out of the pot as it was boiling over the fire, and broke my head

with it and that you shall pay for take my word.

Bet. Spare me not Sirrah, for take my word, I will not spare thee, I warrant thee I am able to give thee bang for bang yet, and that thou shalt find. Take you that thou cuckoldy slave, that is for eating my pigs head last Tuesday, How now Sirrah, how like you a pig's head? I am sure your sauce is good.

Pet. Ay Betteries must we have the other bout for it, take my word, if you got but little of the pig's head, you shall have enough of the sauce, for indeed I do not care so much for your sauce as I do for the meat, therefore I pray you stay and take some of your sauce again. Nay but Betteries turn come about; what would you fain be gone now, I have another account to call up with you before you go.

Bet. Have you sirrah. No, no I would have you to think that I scorn to be counted a coward yet, no, sirrah crack me that nut.

Pet. Pox take thee and thy nuts too, if they be all such as these, for they be devilish hard.

Bet. No, no, firrah you are deceived these be but easy ones; I have an almond Nut for thee to crack yet, O, it will melt in thy mouth like an horn Book, y--- faith.

Pet. A but the devil take thee and thy almond nuts, if these be they, but it is no matter, I can give the choak pears which will do thee a great deal of good, and as you like these you shall have more, and I have enew for thee.

Bet. Ay, but Peter hold thy hand a little, and let me speak to thee, I pray thee tell me, what is the matter that thou dost abuse thy wife in this manner.

Pet. O Betteries to that slander I can very well answer for, that is but a slander to say that I abuse you for I scorn to abuse my wife, no Betteries I do but pay my debts.

Bet. Your debts with a vengeance? may the devil take such pay

masters, that pays their debts with blows,

Pet. Amen, Betteries, but I think the devil will not be troubled with one such as thou art, Betteries, I wish he would then he would do me a very good turn.

Bet. Why thou base brazen Fac'd Rotterdam Cuckold rogue! dost thou think that I am too ill for the devil, no rogue, before I go to the devil I will have the other bout with thee, and that soon to.

I will teach you firrah to assign your wife to the devil, fly brass, hold, hold thou cowardly cuckoldy rogue is that thy manhood to strick now, thou see'st my coudgel in pieces.

Pet. No, no Betteries, you shall have another if you please.

Bet. Another, rogue: ay, and another too. For before I will yield to thee, all the cudgels in town shall fail me. No, firrah, I would have you to think I have not done with you yet, I well warriand thee.

Pet. Take this if you take the other bout.

Bet. The other bout, rogue, ay the other bout too do not think to have thy will of me with thy great words. No, no firrah it wil never be said that I will yield to thee while there is life in my body, or at least while I am able to hold up my cudgel.—And so take that rantums.

Pet. Pox take you for a whore, do you hit me over the nose. Well hufwife the blood that thou hast now shed both at my nose and at my head thou shalt dearly pay for it. Thou shalt not find me such a fool as thy other husband was, that would sit like Jack hold thy staff in the chimney corner, and durst not say by the hard Erse no, take you that hufwife, that is for breaking my head with the brass candlestick on Saturday at night, for eating a piece of an apple pye, I am sure I have not forgot it yet, and I will give the some sauce too.

Bet. Hang the rogue, I care not a

straw for thee take my word, I can give thee bang for bang yet do the worst thou canst, strive harder, thou cuckold. Strive harder and be hang'd; for take my word I'll bang thy rogue's coat by and by, I'll make thee and thy whores fly to Spaniola by land. Thou shalt know sirrah, I am a woman every inch of me; for before I have done, I will lay it on, the devil take off if he will.

Pet. Lay on as hard as thou canst thou bold brazen fac'd slut; I scorn to ask thee any favour, and if thou look for any at my hands thou mayest be deceived except thou mend thy manners. What have you forgot since I found you and the pear monger in the cellar a shaking you for a peck of pears; and when I asked you what you were doing; you up with a three footed stool, and broke my nose, I am sure it is fore yet; and I am sure it was but the trick of a whore.

Bet. Sirrah it is not a broken nose or a broken head that shall serve your

turn; for take my word, I don't intend to leave you one whole bone in thy skin, therefore at all, hit or miss; for a cow, heel back, sides, arms or any place I care not.

Pet. Hey my brave Betteries, O daintily done, play thy work thou mayest come to get thy wages anon, I say so, I see I may hold, till I have not a whole bone indeed. Nay faith mistress have with you, if you go but a mile a day I'll follow, I cannot endure this long.

Bet. Sirrah, if thou cannot abide this, thou had'st best to lay down thy cudgel, and yield the breeches to me and stand to my mercy, and it never shall be the worse for thee.

Pet. How yield the breeches to thee, then the devil take Peter for a fool, I can have no worse a life than what I have had; and I'll see thy neck as long as my arm before I yield. If thou canst win the breeches, then thou shalt wear them; Therefore provide thyself for another single

bout, or else yield me to be thy master.

Bet. My master firrah; no, I scorn to yield while I have one drop of blood in me. I wolud have you to know that I care as little for a broken head as thou: therefore have at that fiery nose of thine, I'll make it as flat as thy face, or the picture of a nose upon a sixpence.

Pet. Hold Betteries, I see that I must leave off my trade and fall to the tannars trade a while, and help thee to tann that whore's hide of your's a little better. You see I but daily with you, and you care not; but now have at you with a new supply, take my word this bout shall pay for all, foa now I will cother win the horse or lose the saddle; and therefore make thee ready, and do not say afterwads, that I came upon thee cowardly.

Bet. I am as ready as thou art, I warrand thee, and that thou art like to find. O, brave Peter, that is manfully done.

Pet. Stand off, you whore, come not so near me.

Bet. For what, you cuckold rogue? What are you afraid of your horns? they be not so little, they be able to abide a bang.

Pet. Ay but I'll bang thy whore's hyde to be doing.

Bet. Murder! murder! good husband, hold thy hands, I am killed, I am killed good husband, forgive me, and I will prove the best wife that ever lay by man's side.

Pet. Yes, yes, you tell me so, but trust you, and I had as good hang you. For when you come drunk then you will be in your majesty again? then come out you rogue, at every word; the tongs, the laddle, the brass candlestick, they must fly about my ears, and sometimes the threefooted stool must comb my head Nay, but faith I thought pay-day would come at last.

Bet. Nay, but good loving husband forgiye me this time this time, and tell me no more of what is past,

and I will never give thee an angry word while I live.

Pet. No, no, Betteries 'no more, you shall not give me any more foul words for I mean to take a course for that while I may; for with my knife I can cure thy tongue for wronging me any more.

Bet. No good husband, take my word this time and upon my life I will be as good as my word, whatever you would have me to do I will do it.

Pet. Well Betteries, seeing you give me so many good words, I will try you once more, upon this condition, that is to stand to these Articles which shall here be laid before you.

Bet. Truly, husband, whatever you would have me say or do I will do it.

Pet. Well then Betteries, I will forgive thee then, first sit down on thy knees and ask me forgiveness.

Bet. I will good husband, forgive me and I will never do so any more.

Pet. Well Betteries upon these con-

ditions which I shall here relate unto you, I will forgive you.

Bet. Indeed, Peter, let it be what you will, and I am content do do it.

The A R T I C L E S..

Pet. Come then hold up thy hand.

Bet. I will Peter.

Pet. First of all wilt thou never be drunk again.

Bet. No indeed Peter, never while I live.

Pet. Nor will you never let the Taylor shake you any more at Islington town's end.

Bet. No indeed husband, never while I live, if I do hang me; for the rogue consented me with a brass half-crown.

Pet. Nor will you never break my head with the laddle again.

Bet. Indeed Peter, I will burn it first.

Bet. Nor will you never break my head with the brass candlestick, as you did on Saturday, for eating the piece of of an apple pyc?

Bet. No indeed, I will not.

Pet. Nor will you never let the pear monger shake you any more in the cellar for a peck of pears.

Bet. No inteed, never while I live for he contented me with rotten pears.

Pet. Nor will you never break my nose with a three footed stool, as you did at that time?

Bet. No, truly husband I will not, and if you will be pleased to forgive me what is past, I will prove the best wife to you that ever was married to a man.

Pet. Come wife, upon these conditions I will forgive you ; so come and give me a kifs, and we will be friends.

Bet. Ay, with all my heart. husband, here is three for thee upon the same condition.

So when these articles were ratified and full agreed upon ; Come wife and fetch us two pots of beer, and let us drink together for the joy of our gaod agreement.

Bet. With all my heart, Peter;
so the beer being come. Come faith
Peter, Wife drink to me upon the
bargain, and will sing to you a new
Song to drive away the time.

Pet. With all my heart, husband,
so they kissed and were both friends.

The S O N G.

The Tune is, *To drive the cold Win-
ter away.*

Come Batchelors all, to you I do
call,

some counsel to take now of me,
When a wooing, you go take heed of
a shrew,

For now by experience I see.
No chieffer delight appears in men's
fight

than a woman that patient in mind
Therefore have a care, of a shrew to
beware,

for they may prove to the unkind
For since I was married things stran-
gely were carried,

but no I hope they'll amend
 For my wife and I of at odds did fly,
 but now I hope in the end.
 We will be content in love and mer-
 riment,
 always to live a queit life.
 Ye young men have a special care,
 Of a shrew when you look for a
 wife;
 Concluding I end, but I do intend,
 if ever a widow I be,
 Henceforth to beware, ay and have
 a care,
 for difference in women I see,
 Some are loving and kind, and some
 are mad in their mind
 all this by experience I know,
 Then my counsel take, and don't it
 forsake,
 In wooing take heed of a shrew.

S O N G II.

OF all comforts I miscarried,
 when I play'd the sot and mar-
 rieded; (on, t,
 'Tis a trap, there's none need doubt

Those those that are in would fain get

SHE. (on't.

Fie, my dear, pray come to bed,
This napping take and bind your head
Too much drink your brain has dos'd
You'll be quite alter'd when repos'd.

HE.

'Ouns! 'tis all one, if I'm up or lye
down; (gone.

For as soon as the cock crows I'll be

SHE,

'Tis to grieve me thus you leave me;
Was I, was I made a wife to lye alone

HE

From your arms myself divorcing,
I this, morn must ride a coursing;
Sport that far excells a madam,
Or all wives that have been since A-

SHE. -clam.

I when thus have lost my due,
Must hug my pillow, wanting you,
And whilst your toping all the day,
Regale in cups of harmless tea,

HE.

Pox, what care I take your fops till
you die, from home.
Yonder's brandy will keep me a month

SHE.

If thus parted I'm broken hearted,
 When I, when I send for you my
He (pray come.
 Can't you lie alone? To ease you,
 Then take who you will to please you
 I abroad must still be gadding,
 Tho' it sets my wife a madding,

She.

Well, I find you will me tease,
 And take your pleasure and your ease
 Since it is so, then I will do
 Something daily to vex you.

He.

Will you do so, then together let's go
 Left a cuckold at length I grow.

She.

Since you starve it,—you deserve it,
 But I shall ever be an honest wife to
 you.

F I N I S.

